PTO/SB/21 (02-04) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Inder the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. **Application Number** 10/676,974 Filing Date TRANSMITTAL September 30, 2003 FORM First Named Inventor Toshio Kobayashi Art Unit (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) **Examiner Name** Attorney Docket Number 4 SHX 342 Total Number of Pages in This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply) After Allowance communication Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) to Technology Center (TC) Appeal Communication to Board Licensing-related Papers of Appeals and Interferences Fee Attached Appeal Communication to TC Petition (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Amendment/Reply Petition to Convert to a Proprietary Information After Final Provisional Application Power of Attorney, Revocation Status Letter Change of Correspondence Address Affidavits/declaration(s) Other Enclosure(s) (please X Terminal Disclaimer Identify below): **Extension of Time Request** Preliminary Amendment; Return Receipt Request for Refund **Express Abandonment Request** Postcard CD, Number of CD(s) Information Disclosure Statement Remarks Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Anton E. Skaugset, Reg. No. 38,617 Kolisch Hartwell, P.C. Individual name Signature Date February 24, 2004 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

February 24, 2004

TOSHIO KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Our File - SHX 342

Serial No.

10/676,974

Filed

September 30, 2003

For

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Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, applicants respectfully request that the above application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims: None.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.